

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /036 W

----- 082981

R 161447Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2221

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCSO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR CO

SUBJ: US MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT WITH GOC AND COUNTRY
CLEARANCES

1. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO RECENT OCCASIONS IN WHICH EITHER DIRECT CONTACT WITH GOC ORGANIZATIONS BY US MILITARY UNITS TOOK PLACE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THIS MISSION OR IN WHICH PROPOSED VISITS WERE FIRMED UP BEFORE COUNTRY CLEARANCE WAS SOUGHT. IN NEITHER CASE WAS THERE ANY PROBLEM, BUT IT DOES RAISE THE QUESTION OF PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE REFERENCE WHICH IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. THE FIRST CASE INVOLVED THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE LECTURE TEAM. APPARENTLY THE COLOMBIAN JOINT WAR COLLEGE ISSUED A DIRECT INVITATION TO THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, BUT THE FIRST THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THE US VISIT WAS A USNWC MESSAGE (251603Z MAR 74) TO NAVAL WAR COLLEGE CARACAS AND INFORMATION TO NAVAL WAR COLLEGE BOGOTA, OUTLINING AMONG OTHER THINGS DETAILED ITINERARY OF THE VISIT TO COLOMBIA. REQUEST FOR COUNTRY CLEARANCE WAS NOT RECEIVED UNTIL APRIL 12. WE DID IN FACT GRANT COUNTRY CLEARANCE, BUT WE WERE IN EFFECT ASKED SIMPLY TO RATIFY A DECISION ALREADY MADE. OBVIOUSLY WE CANNOT CONTROL THE EXTENSION OF INVITATIONS BY HOST COUNTRY ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTLY TO US COUNTERPARTS, BUT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR US ENTITIES, UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH

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INVITATIONS, TO CHECK WITH THIS MISSION AS TO WHETHER THERE

WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION TO PROCEEDING TO ACCEPT AND PROGRAM. AS IT TURNS OUT THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT COMES AT PRECISELY THE SAME TIME AS THE VISIT OF THE AIR UNIVERSITY LECTURE GROUP, WHICH I MIGHT ADD, WAS CAREFULLY CLEARED AND COORDINATED WITH AND THROUGH THIS MISSION EARLY ON.

3. THE SECOND INSTANCE INVOLVED THE ASSIGNMENT OF CAPT CARL T. KYZAR, USA, TO THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL CENTER AT CALI. A MESSAGE TO DAO RECEIVED FROM 67 TRANSPORT SQUADRON BERGSTROM AFB 18 MARCH INFORMED US OF A SHIPMENT OF HIS HHG AND POV. THIS NECESSITATED A RETURN MESSAGE FROM THE DAO TO INQUIRE WHO CAPTAIN KYZAR WAS. THE REPLY FROM BERGSTROM (010430Z APR 74) INDICATED CAPT KYZAR WAS A MEDICAL STUDENT BEING ASSIGNED TO CALI FOR VETERINARY TRAINING, AND STATED THAT "THE COLOMBIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF CAPTAIN KYZAR'S IMPENDING ASSIGNMENT TO CALI". WE DO NOT KNOW BY WHOM OR HOW THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WAS NOTIFIED.

4. I REPEAT THAT NEITHER EXAMPLE CITED ABOVE CONSTITUTED A PROBLEM, AND THEY ARE CITED NOT FOR THEMSELVES BUT AS INDICATIONS OF THE NEED FOR SOME BETTER COORDINATION IN THE FUTURE. I ASK THAT THE DEPT AND DOD TAKE STEPS TO INSURE THAT:

A) COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN US MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AND COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES ON OFFICIAL MATTERS AND INVOLVING US MILITARY PERSONNEL BE ROUTED THROUGH THIS MISSION AS A MEANS OF COORDINATING WITH AND INFORMING US;

B) IN INSTANCES INVOLVING SUCH THINGS AS VISITS OR SIMILAR PROJECTS, THAT COUNTRY CLEARANCE OR SOME KIND OF INITIAL CHECK BE MADE WITH US EARLY IN THE PLANNING STAGE BEFORE THINGS ARE IN CONCRETE. THIS WILL ENABLE US TO IDENTIFY ANY PROBLEMS AT AN EARLY STAGE. TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR COUNTRY CLEARANCE AFTER EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PLANNED -ND WORKED OUT IS, AS NOTED ABOVE, TO SIMPLY ASK US TO RATIFY A DECISION ALREADY MADE, AND WOULD MAKE ANY NEGATIVE RESPONSE THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED THAT MUCH MORE TRAUMATIC TO IMPLEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, DEPARTMENTAL ORGANIZATION, DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY, MILITARY CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BOGOTA03133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740087-0872
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740441/aaaabkie.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT WITH GOC AND COUNTRY CLEARANCES
TAGS: MARR, OCLR, OGEN, CO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005